

John v, 11: "This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son." You can't go behind the record. Do you believe? Do you accept Jesus Christ? Then how can there be any doubt about your salvation?

Mr. Moody read a letter from the London Evangelistic Committee, assuring the Convention of the sympathy and prayers of Christian friends in England.

FIRST FRUITS.

There were four sermons on Sunday—two at the forenoon and two at the afternoon service. In addition to other meetings, Dr. Gordon and Dr. Pierson preached in the forenoon; Mr. Needham and Mr. Moody in the afternoon.

DR. GORDON ON FIRST FRUITS.

Dr. Gordon took for his subject the First Fruits. He referred to seven texts, and divided his discourse under three general heads: 1. The first fruits are a specimen of the harvest. When you see them you know what the harvest will be. 2. They are an assurance of the harvest. When you see them you know the harvest is coming. 3. They are a handful of the harvest—only a diminutive part of it. (1) I Corinthians xv, 20: "Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept." Christ's resurrection has shown us what our glorified body is to be. It is to be a spiritual body; but not a phantom, for the body of Christ had flesh and bones. He entered a room though the door was shut, and finally ascended into Heaven, defying the laws of gravitation, hence our glorified body will be free from the trammels of our present state. That passage: "Who shall change our vile bodies," is much better rendered in the Revised

Version. When Archbishop Whately lay dying, a brother minister read to him those words. Whately said: "No, no. The human body is a temple of the Holy Ghost. It isn't vile. Get the Greek Testament." So his friend read the verse in the Greek, and it was this: "Who shall change the body of our humiliation, and shall fashion it like the body of His glory." This body is not to be cast out because vile, but is to be changed and made glorious. Some object: "The laws of chemistry say this is impossible." I say, the laws of Scripture say it *is* possible. Chemical laws illustrate it. Take a bit of charcoal and a diamond. In substance they are precisely the same. But here is the difference: Charcoal is carbon in its humiliation; the diamond is carbon in its glory. (2) Romans viii, 21, shows that we ourselves are the first fruits of the Spirit. The harvest is coming. As yet we have only seen the first fruits. Pentecost itself was only a few drops of the coming shower. The prophecy remains to be fulfilled: "I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh," etc. When twenty thousand Telugus are converted in one of our mission fields, it is only like a man going round with a watering cart trying to make a shower. A watering cart only goes through the main streets; it doesn't go into the back alleys. But when God sends His great shower, it goes not only through the streets and avenues, but into all the back alleys. Do you hear of a great revival in Boston, New York, Philadelphia? That is only our little watering cart. When God's shower comes it will extend to all the islands of the earth.

(3) James i, 18: "Begot He us . . . that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures." In the last part of the Scriptures we get a glimpse of the wonderful harvest to come. There will be chorus singing then—no small quartette singing either, but a chorus of ten thousand times ten thousand. "Hallelujah" is the only Hebrew word in the Apocalypse. This suggests that in that great chorus of the redeemed the Jews are included; they have been gathered in, and while the vast hosts are singing, they, now and then, in a deep bass voice, break in with the shout, "Hallelujah!" Once the Jews cried, "Not this man, but Barabbas." They chose a murderer and robber, and how they have been murdered and robbed all down the ages! They chose Cæsar as king, and how Cæsars have oppressed them ever since! But when the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled, they are to look on Him whom they have pierced, and reverse their cry, saying, "Not Barabbas, but this Man." (4) Romans xi, 16: "For if the first-fruit be holy, the lump is also holy." (5) 1 Cor. xvi, 15: "The first-fruits of Achaia"—in other words, the first-fruits of missions in Asia. In this latter half of the nineteenth century we are seeing something of the harvest, in Asia especially. (6) Rom. xvi, 5: Another reference to the first-fruits in Achaia. (7) "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first-fruits unto God and the Lamb." May the Lord prepare us! May we have a solemn sense of personal responsibility as Christians, so to live as to be ready for His coming!